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THE YEAR'S FINAL TENNIS MAJOR BEGINS TODAY IN FLUSHING. PAGES 23-24

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Monday, August 25, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork

'OH, MY GOSH, LOOK AT HER BUTT'

Nicki Minaj's opening performance of her "Anaconda" single on Sunday night's MTV Video Music Awards dominated early conversation of the VMAs. For red carpet coverage, turn to page 16. For full coverage, visit www.metro.us.

Worker at day care arrested in death of small toddler

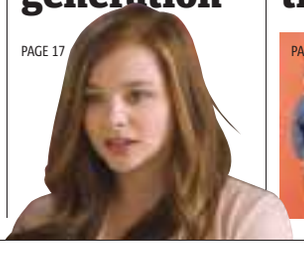
Crime. Athena Skeeter, a Bronx day care worker was arraigned on Sunday in the death of a 20-month-old boy after the medical examiner determined that the child died from reported blunt force trauma to the head and chest while under her care. PAGE 02

SI protest brings out thousands

PAGE 04

Moretz: The voice of her generation

PAGE 17



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PAGE 19

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1 NEWS

Today's tweet

"No alligators in the New York sewer, it would seem. Nevermind, onto Big Foot."
@MrlainCarthy

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'Michael Sam sacks Johnny Manziel, Internet falls apart'

2 'VIDEO: Amy Sedaris teaches Jimmy Fallon CPR'

3 'VIDEO: Whale teases kids at Connecticut aquarium'

Police charge day care worker in child's death

Bronx. The medical examiner determined that the toddler died from trauma to his head and chest.

Police arrested a day care worker late Saturday after investigators found a 20-month-old Bronx boy died while under her watch.

The toddler, identified as Cardel Williamson, died on Friday from what was determined to be blunt-force trauma to his head and chest after his father dropped him off earlier in the morning.

At her arraignment Sunday, court documents alleged that 40-year-old day care worker Athena Skeeter told police she had been wrestling with the child and pressed her foot on his stomach three times.

The boy reportedly began to throw up before Skeeter is said to have placed him in a tub with water that later caused burns to his body.

Police responded to an apartment that operates as a licensed day care center in the Claremont section at around 2:20 p.m.

Authorities said they arrived at the home on College Avenue to find Williamson in bed struggling to breathe.

Visit **Metro.us** to read the latest breaking crime news in NYC.

Officers at the scene attempted CPR but were unable to get the boy to respond.

They jumped into their marked car and rushed the boy to Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center. Doctors, however, declared Williamson dead on arrival.

On Saturday, police reclassified Williamson's death as a homicide after the medical examiner's office investigated the case, prompting police to arrest Skeeter.

Skeeter, who lives in the same building as the day care operation and Williamson's family, faces both manslaughter and child endangerment charges.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA
@chestersoria
chester.soria@metro.us

Facts so far

Athena Skeeter, 40, was arraigned on Sunday for the death of a 20-month-old at the day care where she worked.

- She told police she was wrestling with the child and pressed her foot on his stomach three times.
- Officers at the scene attempted CPR.
- She faces both manslaughter and child endangerment charges.

Long Island

Five killed after crashing into tree

A fiery Long Island crash Saturday night has claimed the lives of five people, including three children.

The New York State Police Farmingdale reported that just before 11 p.m., a 1998 Honda Accord driven by Myriam Lebrun, 37, of Brooklyn, ran off the Southern State Parkway, hit a tree and burst into flames. Lebrun and her passengers, Marcus Jeanty, 14, Marcel Jeanty, 9, Kayla Jeanty, 8 and Moise Yolande, 68, were returning to Brooklyn from a family party. All five were pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash occurred just east of exit 38 in the Town of Babylon.

The cause of the single-car crash is unknown, and the investigation continues.
WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

Got info?

Anyone with information is asked to call New York State Police Farmingdale at (631) 756-3300.

Brooklyn shows love for King of Pop at dance event

Hundreds of Brooklyn residents gathered on Sunday to dance and celebrate the upcoming birthday of Michael Jackson at Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Plaza. The event was hosted by filmmaker Spike Lee, and DJ Spinna played classic tunes from the King of Pop all afternoon. / MILES DIXON, METRO

Cops collar two suspects in shooting

The weapon / NYPD

After a brief chase on foot, two men were arrested Saturday after cops witnessed them standing over a man bleeding from multiple gunshot wounds in Hunts Point.

Two uniformed officers were on foot patrol in the Bronx neighborhood at 1 a.m. Saturday when they heard shots fired at the corner of Simpson and East 163rd streets.

The cops saw two suspects, identified as Jarvis Profit, 23, and Terrance Hobbs, 22, standing over the victim.

The suspects ran off despite the officers' orders to stop. One suspect was seen by a second team of officers as he dropped a loaded .32 caliber semi-automatic handgun authorities said was reported stolen from Washington state. The officers arrested him without incident.

The second suspect was caught by another team of responding officers.

The victim suffered gunshot wounds to his left thigh and right shoulder.

Profit and Hobbs were charged with attempted murder, assault, criminal possession of a weapon and criminal use of a firearm. CHESTER JESUS SORIA

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New Jersey

PATH train less efficient than NYC subway

The Port Authority's PATH train is almost three times as expensive per hour to operate than New York's City's rail system.

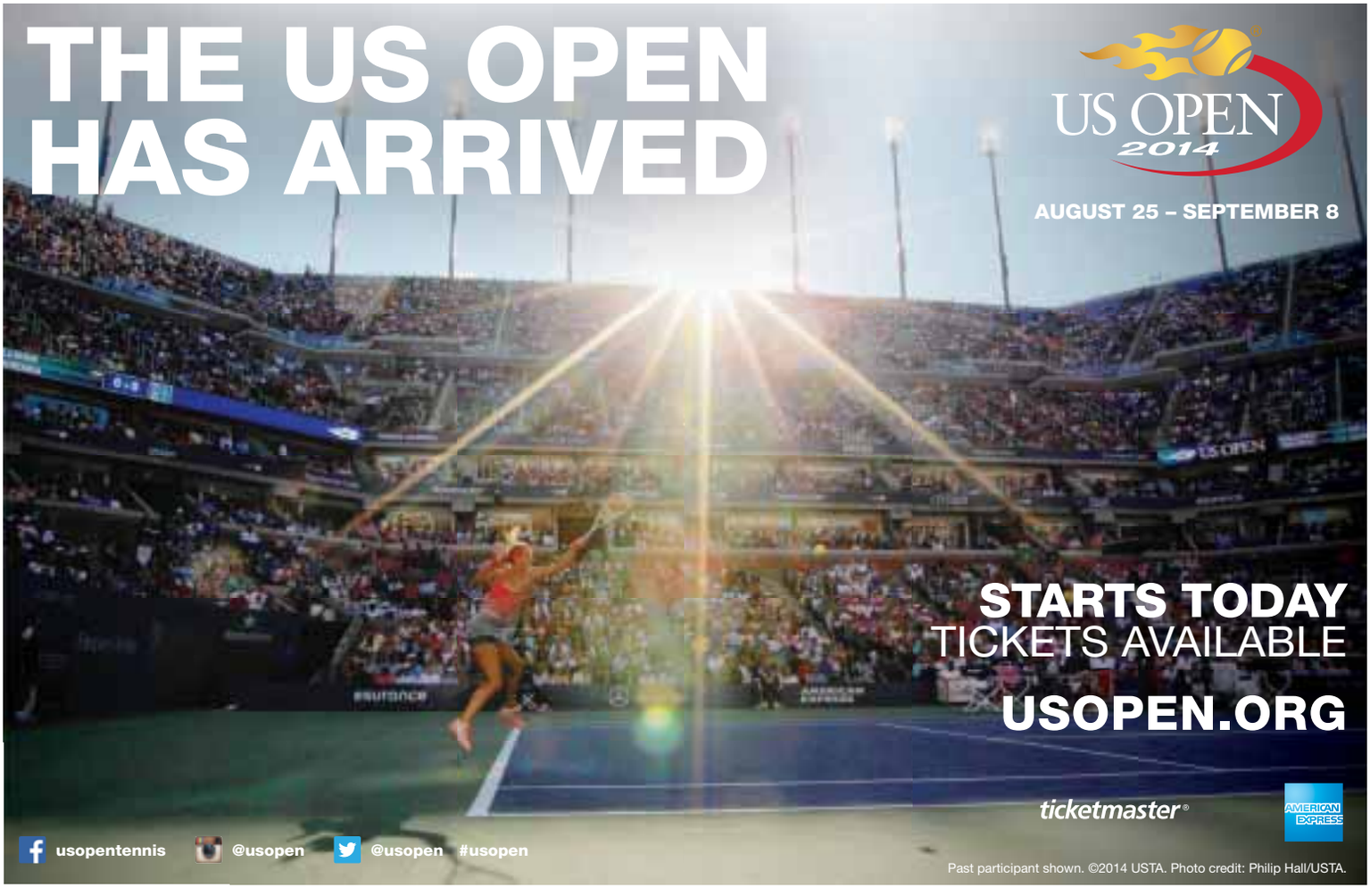
The cost to run PATH is also greater than at New Jersey Transit, Philadelphia's subway and commuter railroad, and a train line connecting Philadelphia and Camden County, New Jersey, according to the National Transit Database.

PATH — which connects Manhattan with Newark, Harrison, Hoboken and Jersey City in New Jersey — spent $575.67 per hour of service in 2012, the most recent year for which data are available.

That compares with $199.17 for New York's subways. BLOOMBERG

Thousands attend Garner march in Staten Island

The Reverend Al Sharpton led thousands of activists in a march across Staten Island on Saturday to protest the death of Eric Garner, who died after a New York City police officer put him in a banned choke hold last month. Sharpton was joined by former New York Governor David Patterson and Garner's widow Esaw. "Let's make this a peaceful march and get justice for my husband so that this doesn't happen to anybody else," Esaw Garner said. The demonstration was also in response to the death of Michael Brown, 18, who was shot dead by a white police officer this month in Ferguson, Missouri. / GETTY IMAGES



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LIRR offers single ticket for football fans

LIRR is offering a single ticket option for riders traveling to MetLife Stadium on public transportation for all Jets and Giant home games.

According to the LIRR, the trains run frequently three hours before the game and up to two hours following the games.

The cost is the standard LIRR fare plus $10.50 on New Jersey Transit.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

Eli Manning, Geno Smith
GETTY IMAGES

Bronx

Motorcyclist killed in crash

A 24-year-old man was killed Sunday morning after crashing his motorcycle into another vehicle in the Bronx.

The man remains unidentified until his family is notified.

A preliminary investigation by the NYPD found the man was driving a 2005 Yamaha motorcycle south on the Major Deegan Expressway when he hit a 2006 Mazda van.

Officers responded to the crash near Exit 11 at 10:34 a.m., and found the motorcyclist had suffered severe body trauma.

The 50-year-old driver, along with his 7-year-old passenger, were treated for minor injuries.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

For exclusive photos, visit Metro.us/blogs.

Jeremiah's Vanishing New York

JEREMIAH MOSS

www.vanishingnewyork.blogspot.com

Jeremiah Moss is the award-winning author of the blog "Jeremiah's Vanishing New York." His writing on the city has appeared in many publications, including The New York Times, and online at The New Yorker.

Characters abound at Donohue's

There's a place on Lexington Avenue, around 64th Street, that hasn't changed since 1950. Donohue's Steak House still decorates its dining room with dark booths and red tablecloths, crackled paintings of tumultuous seas on wood-paneled walls, and a chalkboard loaded with specials from the Eisenhower era: broiled Boston scrod, Yankee pot roast, meatloaf.

At lunchtime, around the bar at Donohue's, you'll find real New Yorkers. The scientist sipping a Manhattan knows everything about everything. The older lady quaffing wine sounds like Maureen O'Sullivan, with a slur that makes her only more elegant. The bartender, with his German accent, referees the conversation with jokes.

In a discussion that bounces from George Orwell to life in India, a newspaper headline shifts the talk to Robin Williams. Comedians are unhappy, the group decides.

"It's the old Pagliacci thing," says the scientist. "The weeping clown. It's the misery behind the laughter."

Jerry Lewis? Miserable. Lenny Bruce? Wretched. Milton Berle? He might have been OK, but Lucille Ball was decidedly unpleasant. They move on to other celebrities. "Hey," says the bartender, "you know what Sinatra said when he introduced Mia Farrow to his mother? He said, 'Mama, Mia.' You see? Mama Mia!"

The lunchers groan and go on. "Joe DiMaggio," says the scientist, "he was a chronic depressive. Everywhere he went, he felt alone."

"I met Joe DiMaggio," the lady interjects.

"You met everybody," says the bartender. "You must be 500 years old."

"Not a day over 400," she retorts. "When I met Joe DiMaggio I was young and busty, blonde and sexy, just like Marilyn Monroe."

The lady prepares to leave—after just "one last splash" of wine. "I have promises to keep," she says, quoting Robert Frost, "and miles to go before I sleep."

The lady kisses the bartender and makes her exit. Then the scientist goes, "Back to my test tubes." Donohue's subsides into quiet. It's empty except for a lonely waitress idling in the dining room. The bartender gazes out the window, waiting for the next cast of characters to take the stage.

JAZZ GUY/FLIKR

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Quake hits north of San Francisco

Earthquake. The 6.0 quake jolted many residents out of bed when it hit at 3:20 a.m.

A worker looks at a pile of wine bottles that were thrown from the shelves at Van's Liquors in Napa, California. / GETTY IMAGES

A 6.0 magnitude earthquake rocked wine country north of San Francisco early on Sunday, injuring dozens of people, damaging historic buildings, setting some homes on fire and causing power outages around the picturesque town of Napa, California.

Three people were seriously injured, including a child who had multiple fractures after a fireplace fell on him, local fire battalion chief John Callahan said. Six fires broke out, including one that consumed six mobile homes, he said.

The local Queen of the Valley hospital said it had treated 89 patients.

There were no reports of fatalities, but the quake shook up residents, said Barry Martin, community outreach coordinator for the City of Napa, which has a population of 77,000.

"This was a pretty big jolt in Napa, but it certainly is not The Big One," Martin added in comments to local television, referring to Californians' fears of a catastrophic quake.

Most damage appeared centered around Napa, a famous wine-producing region and a major tourist destination.

Brick facades gave way in the historic section of downtown Napa, and bricks fell off a second-floor corner of the courthouse, which showed cracks. On the main street, masonry collapsed onto a car.

REUTERS

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Britain says it's close to IDing suspect in Foley beheading video

Video. The actions of ISIS inspired widespread revulsion in the West and a desire to hunt down the killer.

Britain is close to identifying a suspected British national shown beheading American journalist James Foley in a video released by Islamic State militants last week, the British ambassador to the United States said on Sunday.

The horrific video showing the killing of Foley last week, together with a threat to kill another American journalist being held hostage, Steven Sotloff, inspired outrage in the West and a desire to hunt down the killer.

The masked knifeman shown in the video spoke English with a London accent, and security services have launched a major attempt to find out who he is by analyzing the video and seeking to identify him from among the estimated 500 Britons believed to have gone to join the jihadists in Iraq and Syria.

Britain's ambassador to the U.S., Peter Westmacott, told CNN's "State of the Union" that Britain was putting a great deal of resources into identifying the suspect, including voice-recognition technology.

The Islamic State militant that beheaded James Foley. / YOUTUBE

He said he could not give more details, but added, "I do know from my colleagues at home that we are close."

Former hostages of Islamic State have suggested that the man in the video is one of a group of British Islamists assigned to guard foreign prisoners. They have been dubbed John, Paul and Ringo, of The Beatles, because of their British accents, and British media say the suspect is "jihadi John."

U.S. Republicans on Sunday called for more aggressive U.S. action to defeat Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq, accusing President Barack Obama of policies that have failed to thwart potential new threats on U.S. soil.

Rep. Mike Rogers urged the administration to work with Arab partners on robust steps to disrupt the operations of ISIS. REUTERS

Quoted

"They are one plane ticket away from U.S. shores."

Rep. Mike Rogers, Republican chairman of the House of Representative Intelligence Committee, said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

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Journalist

U.S. hostage missing since 2012 freed in Syria: Al Jazeera

Kidnappers in Syria have freed a U.S. journalist missing since 2012, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said on Sunday, following what Qatari-owned Al Jazeera said were efforts by the Gulf Arab state to win his release.

Kerry said in a statement announcing the release of Theo Curtis that the United States was using "every diplomatic, intelligence and military tool" at its disposal to secure the release of other Americans held hostage in Syria.

News of Curtis' release emerged just days after Islamic State militants this week killed American journalist James Foley, who was kidnapped in Syria in 2012.

JOHN KERRY

A Qatari source told Reuters Curtis had been handed over to a representative of the United Nations in Syria.

"Qatari intelligence agencies were behind the release of the American journalist in Syria. Qatar, like many countries, looks to free those captive for humanitarian reasons," the source added. REUTERS

Ferguson. More rallies planned over shooting of unarmed teen

The parents of Trayvon Martin, the Florida teenager shot dead in 2012, on Sunday joined the family of Michael Brown, killed by a police officer in Missouri this month, in a rally in St. Louis on Sunday to protest against police violence.

The demonstration took place one day before the funeral of Brown, an 18-year-old black youth whose slaying by a white police officer, Darren Wilson, in the town of Ferguson on Aug. 9 led to days of unrest.

The last four nights have been relatively calm, however, although shortly before midnight on Saturday, police arrested three people.

At an impromptu memorial where Brown was shot, a few people posed for photos on Sunday and fresh flowers had been laid along the street.

A grand jury began hearing evidence on Wednesday. **REUTERS**

A memorial near the spot where Michael Brown's body lay after he was shot. / GETTY IMAGES

Shooting

Gov. Nixon defends Ferguson prosecutor

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, pictured, defended his decision not to replace a local prosecutor probing the shooting of an unarmed black teenager by a white police officer.

Nixon said St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McColloch is backed by voters and that a grand jury inquiry into Brown's death will be diligent. Ferguson community leaders and the Rev. Al Sharpton, a top civil rights activist, have questioned McColloch's ability to present a fair case. **BLOOMBERG**

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Pressure building within Fed to signal new policy course

Fed chair. Yellen does not want to raise rates only to have to shift gears if the economy slows.

Besides an unpredictable reaction at the New York Stock Exchange, Yellen will contend with a potentially uncooperative world economy that could upend U.S. economic progress. / BILLY BECERRA, METRO

Pressure is building within the Federal Reserve for officials to move as early as next month to more clearly acknowledge improvements in the U.S. economy and lay the groundwork for the central bank's first interest rate hike in nearly a decade.

According to some U.S. central bankers and their close advisers, signs of economic resilience and growing anxiety about the risks of holding rates too low for too long have set the stage for an intense debate over rewriting their policy statement.

It is uncertain whether officials will use their upcoming meeting on Sept. 16 and Sept. 17 to scrap key parts of the language they have been using to keep rate-hike expectations at bay, but if they do not, October looks like a good bet.

Another line that has drawn internal objections is the month-old statement that "significant" slack remains in the labor market, a suggestion that not even strong job growth and a further drop in unemployment will prompt a tightening of policy any time soon. REUTERS

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Virus. Sierra Leone 'hero' doctor's death exposes slow Ebola response

When two American aid workers recovered from Ebola after being treated with an experimental drug, the grieving family of Sierra Leone's most famous doctor wondered why he had been denied the same treatment before he died from the deadly virus.

Sheik Umar Khan was a hero in his small West African country for leading the fight against the worst outbreak of Ebola which has killed 1,427 people mostly in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

When Khan fell sick in late July, he was rushed to a treatment unit run by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) where doctors debated whether to give him ZMapp, a drug tested on laboratory animals but never before used on humans.

Staff agonized over the ethics of favoring one individual over hundreds of others and the risk of a popular backlash if the untried treatment was perceived as killing a national hero.

In the end, they decided against using ZMapp. Khan died on July 29, plunging his country into mourning.

A few days later, the California-manufactured pharmaceutical was administered to U.S. aid workers Kent Brantly and Nancy Writebol, who contracted Ebola in Liberia and were flown home for treatment. It is not clear what role ZMapp played in their recovery, but the two left the hospital in Atlanta last week. REUTERS

People sit beneath a banner mourning doctor Sheik Umar Khan at Kenema government hospital, Sierra Leone. / GETTY IMAGES

Deaths

100

Khan is among nearly 100 African health care workers to have died from fighting Ebola.

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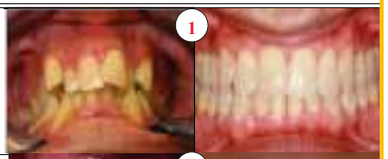

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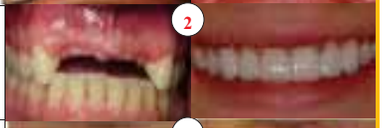

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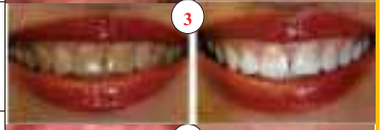

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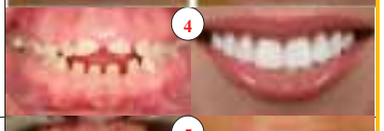

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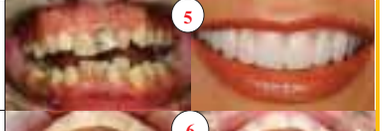

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The messy dorm survival guide

Campus life.
Adjusting to a roommate's living habits can be tough.

If you were to ask the average person to close his or her eyes and picture a stereotypical college dorm room, the words "neat and organized" probably aren't the first things that come to mind. But given that many incoming college students are going to be living with roommates for the next four years, a conversation about cleaning is in order.

"The first thing you have to accept is that you can't control other people's behavior," says Jolie Kerr, the author of "My Boyfriend Barfed in My Handbag — And Other Things You Can't Ask Martha." She shares these tips on how to share a living space.

Be the person you want to live with

"Set an example," says Kerr, noting that picking up after yourself should be part of your daily routine. "You come from a better position if you're walking the walk." It's also important to remember that not everyone has the same definition of the words "clean" or "messy." Some people simply don't mind having a pile of clothes on the floor.

Focus on the mess

"Try not to make it personal," says Kerr. "If you have a roommate who leaves food around, it's important to say 'That bowl of

Keeping things tidy

Set aside a few minutes a day to get organized

With schoolwork, exams and part-time jobs thrown into the mix, making time to clean can be difficult. "Just take 15 minutes to pick up after yourself," says Kerr. "Before I sat down to study, I needed to tidy my space."

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Cleaning-related conflicts can make dorm life harder than it should be. / DIGITAL VISION

half-eaten cereal is gross.' Not 'you are gross.'"

Make your bed every day

"Dorm rooms are so small, so it's especially important to make the bed," Kerr notes. A good way to get into a bed-making routine is to do it at the same time every day. "It could be right after you get up or right after you shower," she suggests.

Know when to go up the chain

It's important to talk to your roommate directly before involving your Resident Advisor or formally requesting a room change. Kerr says that if things continue even after mentioning it twice, it's time to take sterner action. "If your roommate is doing things like leaving food around or leaving used condoms on the floor, go to the RA and say, 'I've spoken to Joe or Jane and nothing has changed.' Having used condoms in the room is unacceptable."

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Priority Enrollment Week…Monday, August 25th- Friday, August 29th.

This week is priority enrollment week at NYCI. Our Admissions Advisors will be focusing our efforts on helping you complete the admissions process quickly so that you can start classes this fall. **The term begins on Tuesday, September 9th.** For more information call the NYCI Office of Admissions at 212 962-0002 or visit **www.nyci.edu.**

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Admissions Office Hours for this week are: Monday-Thursday, 9am-7pm; Friday, 9am-2pm

2 CULTURE

In the news

Rap mogul Suge Knight was hospitalized after violence erupted at a VMAs pre-party early yesterday morning, with shots fired at R&B star Chris Brown but hitting Knight and two other attendees instead. TMZ reports that one of the other victims is in critical condition. Multiple shots were fired around 1:30 a.m. at West Hollywood nightclub 1OAK, with several sources claiming Brown, who was hosting the party, was the intended target. Knight was rushed to nearby Cedars-Sinai, and is expected to recover.

Bang, bang there goes your heart

Ladies were looking great on MTV's Video Music Awards red carpet last night.

Ariana Grande

The former Nickelodeon looks like Blond Ambition-era Madonna, a reference that might be lost on the 21-year-old star, as the "Problem" singer was born three years after the Blond Ambition tour ended.

Nicki Minaj

Despite her wildlife print, Nicki Minaj was tame on the red carpet this year, at least tame by her standards. It's a short dress, but this is a woman whose past VMA appearances were marked by her neon wigs and accessories.

Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift totally owned the cute little jumper she wore and nobody can take that away from her (the way Kanye tried to take an award away from her five years ago). The only thing we might have changed is how close the letter V is to her actual V.

Amber Rose

Amber Rose, who was there to cheer on husband and "We Dem Boyz" singer Wiz Khalifa, was a bit of a distraction in her bejeweled dress, which left little to the imagination and accentuated her curvaceous bod.

Miley Cyrus

Miley Cyrus may have dominated post-VMAs talk in 2013, but she actually kept her tongue inside of her mouth for a few photos this year.

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TV watch list

AWARDS

66th Primetime Emmy Awards

This year, try out a special Monday-night viewing of the Emmy awards, because nothing says festive party night like a Monday.

8 P.M., NBC

Seth Meyers has not aged in the past decade and will continue to look like this decades into the future. / RODOLFO MARTINEZ/NBC

REALITY

'Hotel Hell'

Gordon Ramsay visits a hotel in Vermont, where the pet-friendly policy has gotten out of control. Out of control in quantity or variety? We're hoping for some pet kangaroos.

9 P.M., FOX

COMEDY

'The Simpsons'

If the Emmys aren't your thing, don't worry: There are still more "Simpsons" to watch on the FXX marathon. In this episode, Homer takes Flanders on a trip to Las Vegas. Which Las Vegas activities can Ned Flanders even partake in? Maybe they'll catch a Celine Dion show. **LISA WEIDENFELD**

Keeping the doctor away

Has shooting this film changed your opinion of hospitals at all?
Um, I think it made me hate them more. There are some really mean people that work in this hospital [in the movie]. It's a hospital that I would never want my family to be put into, and [also] because I filmed it inside of an insane asylum.

It doesn't look like an insane asylum, at least.
Yeah, exactly, because they made it look real pretty. [Laughs]

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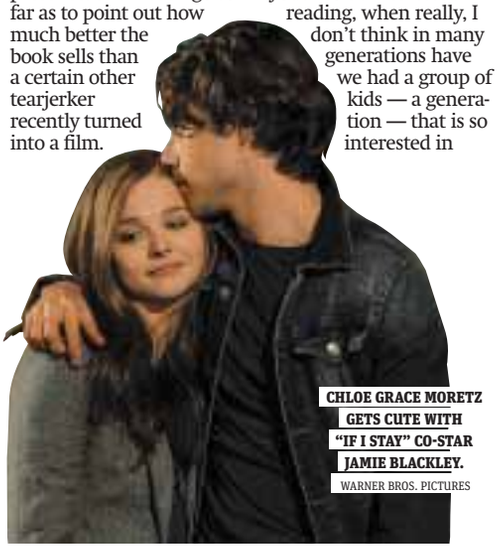
Chloe Grace Moretz plays a teenager in a coma in "If I Stay," now in theaters. / GETTY IMAGES

Chloe Grace Moretz vs. 'The Fault in Our Stars'

Interview. The star of "If I Stay" says her film's novel is a better seller than the other YA death book.

Chloe Grace Moretz is the best cheerleader "If I Stay" could ask for. As the star of the film adaptation of the successful YA novel — about a teen girl trapped in limbo while in a coma, trying to decide whether to live or die — Moretz has been a tireless campaigner and social media omnipresence. She'll even go so far as to point out how much better the book sells than a certain other tearjerker recently turned into a film.



CHLOE GRACE MORETZ GETS CUTE WITH "IF I STAY" CO-STAR JAMIE BLACKLEY. WARNER BROS. PICTURES

You tweeted recently about how much 'If I Stay' outsells 'The Fault in Our Stars.'
That was from USA Today! For every 10 books we sell, they only sell 8.3 books.

Do you feel any sort of rivalry with that book and film and yours?
Not quite really a rivalry, but more like I think it's interesting that we're all making movies like this, for young teens and kids that they're actually enjoying. And what I think is so cool about it is that we're really mobilizing youth to be interested in reading, when really, I don't think in many generations have we had a group of kids — a generation — that is so interested in reading the latest novel.

Why do you think that is?
I mean, you look at 1980 to 1990, and that is a time period when you had all this technology coming through in the forefront, all this brand-new technology. And then now, this generation — my generation — we've grown up with technology, so it's not special to us. It's kind of just whatever. Like, I've had an iPhone since I was 11, most kids younger than me have had iPhones since they were 7 years old. They don't really care about technology because it's just their life. There's not an enthrallment. So I think they're looking for something that might be a bit more naturalistic, something that makes them feel and emote, because I think that our generation of electronics is kind of counteracting that.

And lately it's been books that are more reality-based and less about sparkly vampires.
Yeah, definitely. The more reality there is in these novels and movies, the better it is, which is shocking because it used to be the more camp, the more laughs, the more stylized, the better.

Box office. 'Guardians of the Galaxy' surges back into first place

You can't keep a good raccoon down: "Guardians of the Galaxy" is tops at the box office again. / MARVEL

Marvel's hit space adventure "Guardians of the Galaxy" returned to win the domestic box office race in its fourth week of release, slaying the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" and ending the oversized reptiles' two-week reign at the top of the charts.

"Guardians," which also became the highest-grossing movie of the summer season, sold $17.6 million worth of tickets at North American theaters from Friday through Sunday.

"Turtles" took in $16.8 million in its third weekend to claim second place. "If I Stay" (see story at left) was third with $16.4 million.

Time Warner Inc.'s Warner Brothers distributed "If I Stay." "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" was distributed by Viacom Inc.'s Paramount Pictures. Walt Disney Co. distributed "Guardians of the Galaxy." REUTERS

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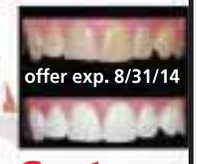
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Let's pretend we're married

Interview. Alfred Molina and John Lithgow improved their friendship by getting wed in "Love is Strange."

"Don't eat that bit, babe," Alfred Molina says to John Lithgow as he's about to bite into the toothpick in his turkey club sandwich. Molina then laughs, realizing he said it instinctively.

It seems some actorly affectations are hard to drop. Lithgow and Molina are doing press for "Love is Strange," in which they play Ben and George, a couple of 40 years who are finally legally able to marry. But when they do, their troubles begin: George is fired from his church school job, and they're forced to sell their Greenwich Village apartment. What's worse, they have to stay in separate houses for the first time in decades. In real life, Lithgow and Molina were friends prior to filming.

Lithgow says, "We were somehow very good friends without ever having spent any real time together."

Visit **Metro.us** for Lithgow's views on other LGBT films.

MATT PRIGGE
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1 Their friendship helped the film

John Lithgow: These parts couldn't have been played as well if we didn't have complete ease with each other. And we still have it [on the press tour]. There are very few actors I would want to spend this much time with. [Laughs]

2 On spending screentime apart

Alfred Molina: It didn't seem that way to me at first. When I first read the script, I thought it was "Ben and George, Ben and George, Ben and George." And then when we started shooting, when John turned up I had already done a week's worth of work, out of a four-week shoot. And then after I finished, John was on for another week.

3 Two hammy actors acting small for director Ira Sachs

JL: I've never worked with anyone who operates the way Ira does. ... There was no read-through. The first time [Alfred and I] ever said our lines to each other was when we were on-set. His most frequent direction was "No acting, no acting." It was like he was taking away the only thing we felt we were good at. [Laughs]

AM: We're old characters guys. If we see a piece of scenery, we'll f—ing chew it.

JL: When I saw the movie I said, "Wow, this is a John Lithgow I've never seen before."

AM: That's exactly how I felt. I thought, this is a new version of me. John and I share something which is we get very excited for roles that take us far away from our own perception of ourselves as possible. ... This movie we're playing much closer to who we are as people.

4 The film's gentle nature

JL: This is almost non-drama instead of drama. The drama emerges from the ordinariness of their lives.

AM: It's little moments of ordinariness that actually translate into something quite epic by the end. You witness these tiny increments of emotion and feeling and conflict — all done inside domestic situations, inside interiors. By the end we realized we'd told a universal story.

5 LGBT themes in their early '80s films ('Prick Up Your Ears' and 'The World According to Garp')

AM: Those were roles in a very different social and cultural climate. They came right in the middle of the first wave of the AIDS crisis. People weren't nearly as accepting as they are now. ... Those films had a very different function. That's what I mean about this being epic in its ordinariness.

'Love is Strange' modest activism

JL: I do think the film is quite revolutionary, in a sneaky way. It's such a modest film. But when have you really seen a realistic portrait of an old gay couple? We live in an era when same-sex marriage is this huge front page issue all the time. But there's nothing in the movies that puts a face on it. The couple in this film is what we've been talking about when we say no to Prop 8 or say yes to same-sex marriage.

‘They want’ Spoon

Indie rock. Despite taking four years to put out another album, this Texas band’s fans are still with them.

Spoon’s latest album, “They Want My Soul,” comes four years after their last album. Guitarist and keyboard player Eric Harvey admits that’s a long time.

“The last Spoon record came out in 2010, so that means a kid that was 12 then is now 16,” Harvey calculates out loud. “Somebody who was 25 is now almost 30, and are they still going to shows? And are they still into music at all?”

Harvey’s concern is evidently not warranted, however, as “They Want My Soul” debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard charts when it was released earlier this month.

Harvey says there were times in between albums when he wasn’t sure he’d be playing under the Spoon moniker again.

“There was no question whether or not Spoon was going to make another record,” he says, though singer Britt Daniel’s side-project, Divine Fits, had fans wondering about that. “For me it wasn’t a question of whether I’d be invited back, but a lot can happen within a few years.”

While Daniel was doing Divine Fits, Harvey made a solo album and did some freelance design work.

“The farthest away from Spoon I got wasn’t going to some faraway place, but it was actually having some sort of domestic life in Texas,” he says. “I was living with my girlfriend at the time, and basically for the first time in six years I was home all the time. I ended up getting a day job and doing music on the side, because I certainly didn’t make any money doing my solo record; certainly not enough to make it my full-time job, so it was a bit of a reality check for a while there.”

HARVEY, TOP LEFT, SAYS THERE WAS A TIME THAT HE THOUGHT HE WOULDN’T BE POSING FOR A PICTURE LIKE THIS AGAIN. / TOM HINES

If you go

Spoon

Sept. 10
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Festival circuit

Spoon-fed info

Spoon are playing the late summer festival circuit, including a stop at Philly’s Made In America fest, where they perform while Girl Talk is performing on another stage and right before Tiesto plays a headlining slot.

“We pretty much open for DJs now,” says Harvey with a light laugh. “I don’t always look at these festival bills until right before we play, and chances are that I really want to see somebody but it’s the day after we perform so we’re not going to be there. But I did stay to see The Replacements at one festival we played earlier this year.”

PAT HEALY
@metrousmusic
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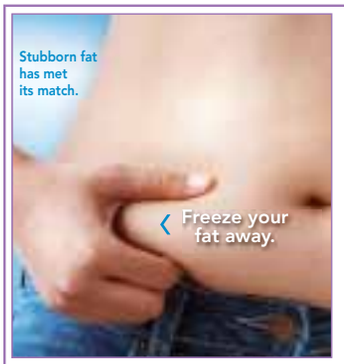

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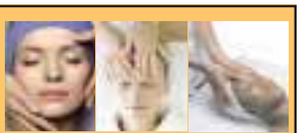

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WHEN IT'S THEM, NOT YOU

Common superstition holds that bad (and good) things come in threes. So when, in one evening, two back-to-back clients sought advice about how to respond to unforeseen personal attacks after I also had been verbally accosted earlier that day, I knew I had to address the issue in my column.

One client had been the target of a rant from a normally agreeable co-worker; the other by an old friend. My antagonist had been a usually friendly neighbor who hurled insults and accusations at me when, while my attention was diverted, my dog chose to mark my neighbor's sidewalk garden.

Though you might laugh, the intensity of his rage unsettled me. I was able to shake it off, knowing that his accusations of disrespect were unfounded — in fact, I had helped save this very same plot two years ago when his landlord threatened to destroy it. Perhaps my dog and I had behaved objectionably, but did it really warrant such vitriol?

As a general rule, when people overreact to a relatively minor offense there's a good chance it's not actually about you. More often than not, their overreaction is a sign that you have stumbled into an old, unhealed wound, making you the perfect patsy. In this situation, maintaining good personal boundaries — "It's not me, it's them" — can make the difference between fighting back, which will only make things worse, or shrugging it off.

When a colleague is already stressed, even a simple mistake can escalate into an argument. / PHOTODISC

PLUS

Final thought

Even when there's an element of truth or culpability buried in the complaint, it's important to remember that you deserve to be treated with respect. And who knows, maybe your dignified response will help them see the error of their ways — as it did with my neighbor, who apologized the next day.

Advice

Not letting someone's anger affect you can be easier said than done. Take some deep breaths, then try one of these tactics:

- **Recognize the anger:** "I see that you're angry. What would help you feel better?"
- **Take the high road:** "I can't receive any constructive feedback when you're personally attacking me."
- **Insist on a halt:** "That's enough! We'll talk when you've calmed down."
- **Detoxify with an apology:** "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you. What upset you about my actions?"
- **Point out the futility:** "We're getting agitated and going nowhere. Let's back up and start this discussion again."
- **Diffuse the anger with validation:** "What you are saying makes sense. I agree that etc."

No Insurance Necessary

KIM SCHNEIDERMAN, MSW, LCSW
NOVEL-PERSPECTIVE.COM

Kim Schneiderman's book "Step Out of Your Story: Writing Exercises to Reframe and Transform Your Life," is scheduled for publication in the spring. Email Kim your questions at askkim@metro.us.

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6 Ways to run a dynamic and productive meeting

Advice. Keep your meetings focused and yawn-free.

Content-heavy meetings should always be scheduled in the morning, say consultants Dick and Emily Axelrod. / DIGITAL VISION

You're at a meeting in the office conference room. You most likely feel:

a) bored out of your mind
b) confused as to what the point of the discussion is
c) annoyed that you were pulled away from your desk
d) a combination of all of the above

If there's one thing most office workers have strong opinions about, it's unproductive meetings. Despite all of the evidence, little has been done to change the way most companies conduct business. We recently chatted with consultants Dick and Emily Axelrod about their new book, "Let's Stop Meeting Like This: Tools to Save Time and Get More Done," and what managers can do to fix common issues and hold better meetings.

LAKSHMI GANDHI
@LakshmiGandhi
lakshmi.gandhi@metro.us

1 Stay on track with a schedule

"There should be ground rules for how long anyone can speak," says Emily. Having a designated timekeeper who makes sure things stay on schedule and helps moderate discussions can make a big difference.

2 Make it a point to get everyone comfortable

"You want everyone to feel connected and have a collaborative space," says Dick. "If there are new people, then you really have to have time for people to get to know each other."

3 Give everyone a chance to speak

Letting one person dominate a meeting is a recipe for disaster. "One thing to do is to institute a rule that says, 'Before we discuss anything, we should go around the room so that everyone has time to speak,'" advises Dick.

4 Be clear about the purpose

"It's important to ask, 'What are we trying to create here?'" says Dick. "When you know where you are and what you want to create, you begin to see things that you didn't see before."

5 What is your message?

Managers, says Dick, should work to make sure that employees "leave a meeting feeling that it was time well spent." He continues, "People should feel that they learned something new."

6 Build in breaks

Sometimes long meetings are unavoidable. In those cases, Emily recommends working in five-to-10-minute breaks so people can check their phones. That way, they can focus during discussions.

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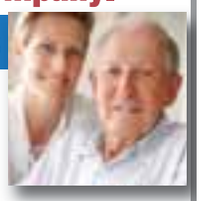

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Horoscope

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. A day that starts full of promise might end up being less than satisfactory. A rash decision could turn out badly.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. You might be sent on a wild goose chase. Make sure to do your homework. Unless you get agreements in writing, you could end up with less.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Broaden your horizons, and acquaint yourself with groups in your area. You will discover that you share a passion with someone.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Channel your energy into completing tasks and honoring your responsibilities. The longer you procrastinate, the more stressed you will feel.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. You might have to take a small detour today. If your target remains the same, consider alternate ways.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Every investment involves an element of risk. Make sure you don't overextend your budget on a get-rich-quick scheme.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Your eagerness will be disconcerting. If you don't want to risk a parting of the ways, rethink your strategy.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Compromise will make this day a success. You can get ahead if you make others realize your goals and how you intend to reach them.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Consider what you can do to improve your confidence. If a personal change will help, try to initiate it quickly. Look toward the future.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Steer clear of altercation. You may feel your energy waning. Get necessary things done early.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. There are many people in your corner. Listen to their concerns and value the opinions you are offered.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Focus on improving your cash flow. Go over your investment portfolio, and see if any changes need to be made. Professional advancement is likely if you are conscientious.

EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

			9					
7		1			3	5	6	
	6	4					3	
5	1		4	6				2
9				3				4
4				5	2		1	9
	2					1	8	
	8	9	3			7		6
					8			

		4						
		1	4		7			5
	9		8				7	6
5					2	9		
1	6	2				5	4	7
		9	6					2
7	5				9		3	
9			3		6	7		
						6		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Those aren't robots you were looking for, actually

Re: 'Who's Next' (Metro, Aug. 21-24) Please don't confuse your American audience. The TARDIS is not simply a telephone booth — it is a police box. We might not have them in America, but they're not really interchangeable. While we're on the subject of things that aren't really interchangeable, the six-letter word for R2-D2 and C-3PO is properly "droids" (not "robots," as your Aug. 19 crossword suggested). You could have used "Tom Servo and Gypsy," from Mystery Science Theater 3000 as a clue, and everyone would have been happy. ANTHONY P. FARRELL, VIA EMAIL

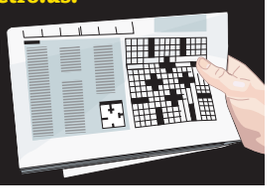
Let the jury, not mob, decide

Re: 'Nobody's right' (Metro, Aug. 19) In the Ferguson case, nobody yet knows the whole story. Yet letter writer Evans has already bought his rope for the hanging just as a grand jury has started its deliberations. What is this rush to judgment? What is wrong with our society when so many, including the governor of Missouri, have already found the police officer guilty and he hasn't even been charged yet?
SAL GIARRATANI, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

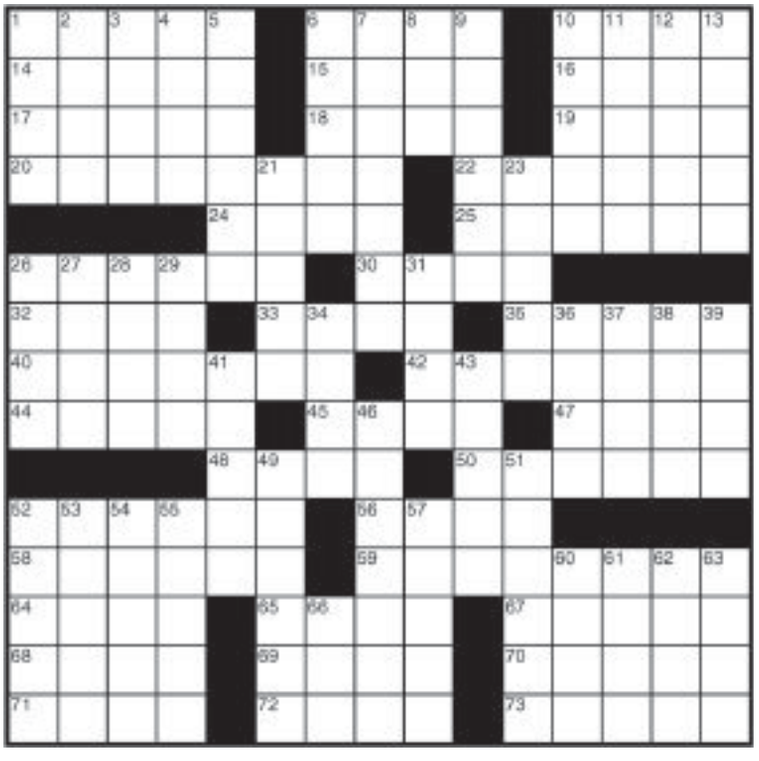
Visit us online at **Metro.us.**
Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.



Crossword

Across
1 Spills the beans
6 Freighter, for one
10 Fermi split it
14 Bolt for an I-beam
15 "Typical Male" singer
16 Easy mark
17 Romance, in Rome
18 Hardwoods
19 Change for a five
20 Ruin
22 Pungent seasoning
24 Escape
25 Far afield
26 Acid in vinegar
30 Hole punchers
32 Bathe
33 Workers' protection org.
35 Sultans' cousins
40 Potter, e.g.
42 Fortress
44 Nutritional supplement
45 "— my word!"
47 Actress – Olin
48 Villain in Shakespeare
50 Unconscious
52 Very strong
56 Road division
58 Surface
59 Cooler (2 wds.)
64 Ms. Kournikova
65 — von Bismarck
67 More blustery
68 Disposes of
69 PC owner
70 "Maria —"
71 Return env.
72 Gull's cousin
73 Irritable

Down
1 Carpet nail
2 Large sedan
3 State positively
4 Swiss capital
5 Graf of tennis
6 Pocketed
7 Racetrack near Miami
8 Cuttlefish defense
9 French mathematician Blaise —
10 Take in a stray
11 Radio dial
12 Horse —
13 Unkempt
21 Bauxite giant
23 Liability opposite
26 Not home
27 Be concerned
28 Is, in Argentina
29 Not that
31 Baylor University site
34 Tucked in
36 Browser's delight
37 — fixe
38 Russo or Descartes
39 Wallop
41 Smart
43 Harebrained
46 More civil
49 Dined at the diner (2 wds.)
51 Hush-hush
52 Fall fruits
53 "— vincit amor"
54 Watches over
55 Delete a file
57 Squirrel snack
60 — and hearty
61 Flock members
62 Mailed out
63 Cafeteria item
66 Mao — -tung



Yesterday's answer

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Federer riding high as US Open gets into gear

U.S. Open. The 17-time major winner feels better than he has in years, and has a favorable draw too.

Roger Federer has played well lately as he looks to win a major for the first time in two years. / GETTY IMAGES

Roger Federer arrived at last year's U.S. Open with his confidence — and his seeding — sagging.

The five-time U.S. Open champion was bothered by a back injury that prevented him from training as much as he would have liked, and he ended up playing in Queens with his older, 90-square-inch racket frame instead of the 98-inch frame he had tested earlier in the summer.

He entered the Open as the No. 7 seed — his lowest position since 2002 — and was bounced in the fourth round by journeyman Tommy Robredo.

"I felt like I had little margin against guys ranked just outside of the top 10 to No. 30 in the world," Federer said of his feelings a year ago. "And then the rest of the field, I felt like I could manage it somehow, but the confidence was going away quickly, too, just because I was just not moving so well. I was scared to have another setback, and so it was just not as clear-cut and simple as it is this year."

What a difference a year makes.

Visit **Metro.us** to read more about Rafael Nadal's U.S. Open absence.

Armed with a new coach (his boyhood idol, the attack-minded Stefan Edberg), a new racket and a healthy back, the 33-year-old father of four enters this year's Open brimming with confidence. The 17-time Grand Slam winner has won 18 of his last 20 matches, including capturing the titles in Halle, Germany and in the recent hardcourt event in Cincinnati. He reached the finals of Wimbledon — losing to Novak Djokovic — and the finals in Toronto — falling to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Quoted

"I'm looking forward to this tournament, because I really feel like I can play a great tournament. I hope I can show that on the court this year."

Roger Federer

"It's not just how well he hits it, he seemed to be right there as maybe the greatest mover in the history of hardcourts," four-time Open champ John McEnroe said. "The movement he was displaying at Wimbledon was unreal and he's sort of continued that, so I guess I shouldn't be surprised."

Federer has also been blessed with a terrific draw.

His arch-rival, defending U.S. Open champion Rafael Nadal, withdrew from the tournament with a wrist injury, allowing Federer to move from No. 3 to the No. 2 seed and avoid a possible semifinal meeting with the Spaniard..

"I'm more disappointed for the fans, his fans, and the tournament, who puts up a great event," Federer said of Nadal. "It's not necessarily dependent of an event like this, on the one player, but it's more exciting with him."

ADAM ZAGORIA
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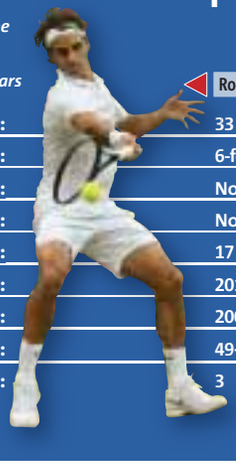
US Open tale of the tape

With Rafael Nadal on the sidelines, Metro breaks down the stats on the remaining three superstars in the U.S. Open draw.



	Roger Federer	Novak Djokovic	Andy Murray
Age:	33	27	27
Height:	6-foot-1	6-foot-2	6-foot-3
Current world ranking:	No. 3	No. 1	No. 9
U.S. Open ranking:	No. 2	No. 1	No. 8
Majors:	17	7	2
Last major:	2012 Wimbledon	2014 Wimbledon	2013 Wimbledon
Last U.S. Open title:	2008	2011	2012
2014 match record:	49-9	39-6	34-14
2014 tournament wins:	3	4	0

3 SPORTS

Season setback

Bradford tears ACL

Rams QB Sam Bradford appears to be out for the season after re-tearing his surgically repaired left ACL in a game Saturday night against the Browns. He tore the ACL in Week 7 last season. The Rams were initially hopeful Saturday night it was just a hyperextension, but an MRI Sunday morning confirmed the worst news. Shaun Hill is the team's backup.

Watch online

Find video and recap of yesterday's Mets-Dodgers and Yankees-White Sox games at: **Metro.us/sports.**

Open favorites and sleepers

Familiar names sit atop the oddsmakers' lists, but the favorites are far from a sure thing to win at Flushing Meadows this year.

ADAM ZAGORIA
sports@metro.us

Men's singles

FAVORITES ...

Novak Djokovic (No. 1)
The Wimbledon champ has appeared in four straight finals here, winning in 2011. He may need to beat 2012 Open winner Andy Murray in the quarterfinals and Australian Open champ Stan Wawrinka in the semis before potentially facing Federer in the final.

Roger Federer (No. 2)
The five-time U.S. Open champ has won 18 of his last 20 matches and is brimming with confidence. With Rafael Nadal absent, Federer has a favorable draw to reach the final.

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Milos Raonic (No. 5)
The huge-serving Canadian reached the semifinals at Wimbledon and appears poised for a breakthrough.

Grigor Dimitrov (No. 7)
Nicknamed "Baby Fed," the Bulgarian could face the real Federer in the quarters.

Women's singles

FAVORITES ...

Serena Williams (No. 1)
The two-time defending U.S. Open champion is seeking her first major title of the year. An 18th Grand Slam crown would tie her with legends Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova.

Maria Sharapova (No. 5)
The 2006 U.S. Open champion and reigning French Open winner, Sharapova could face Serena in the women's final. Williams has won 15 straight against Sharapova.

HALEP IS 38-11 IN MATCHES IN 2014 WITH TWO TITLES.
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DARK HORSES ...

Simona Halep (No. 2)
The Romanian is No. 2 in the world after reaching the semifinals at Wimbledon but has never been past the fourth round in Queens.

Victoria Azarenka (No. 16)
The 2012 and 2013 Open finalist has fallen in the rankings while battling injuries.

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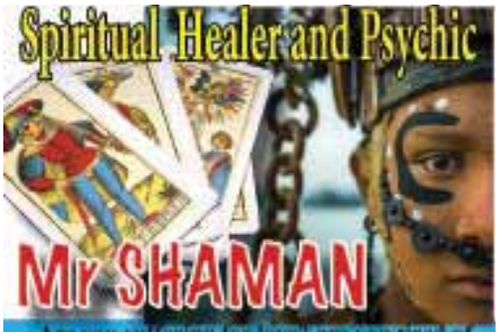

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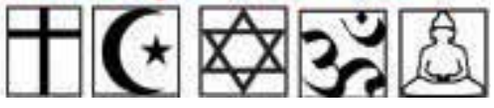

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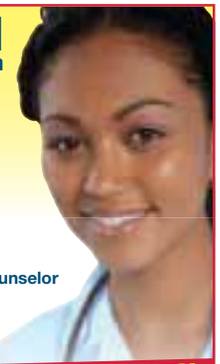

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12mm 2.0 $799.99 - $200 = $599.99	**60mm 2.8** $499.99 - $100 = $399.99	**14-42mm 2R** $299.99 - $200 = $99.99	**17mm 1.8** $499.99 - $100 = $399.99	**12-50mm 3.5-6.3** $499.99 - $200 = $299.99
45mm 1.8 $399.99 - $100 = $299.99	**75mm 1.8** $899.99 - $200 = $699.99	**14-150mm** $599.99 - $200 = $399.99	**25mm 1.8** $399.99 - $100 = $299.99	**40-150mm** $199.99 - $100 = $99.99

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* Instant Savings valid July 27 through August 30, 2014. [3] Among digital cameras with interchangeable lenses available as of September 19, 2013; based on Nikon research. [4] For limitations regarding waterproof and shockproof attributes of the Nikon 1 AW1, go to nikonusa.com/aw1limitations. *All prices are suggested retail price. Actual selling offer is determined by each dealer at the time of sale. All prices and specifications are subject to change without notice. All Nikon products include Nikon Inc. USA limited warranty. ©2014 Nikon Inc.

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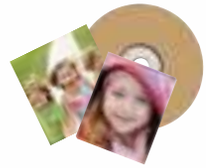

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